

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-37 (Canceled)

38. (Previously presented) A node for use in a wireless network comprising:

a transceiver; and

a control to operate the node in an active state with the transceiver on and a low power state with the transceiver off, the node in the low power state switching to the active state at regular intervals to receive a broadcast polling message and the node synchronizing to the broadcast polling message.

39. (Currently amended) A node for use in a wireless network comprising:

a transceiver; and

a control to operate the node in an active state and a low power state, the node in a low power state waking in response to at least a first timer interrupt signal to receive a broadcast packet to which the node synchronizes, the node in an active state entering a low power state in response to at least a second timer signal.

40. (Previously presented) A node for use in a wireless network comprising:

a transceiver; and

a control to operate the node in an active state and a low power state, the node in a low power state waking at a timed interval to receive a packet broadcast periodically in a broadcast packet time slot, the node being responsive to the broadcast packet to switch to the active state.

41. (Currently amended) A node for use in a wireless network as recited in claim 40 wherein the node switches from the active state to the low power state if the node does not receive a message within a predetermined period of time second timed interval.

42. (Previously presented) A method for operating a node in a wireless network comprising:

- waking a node in a low power state at regular intervals;
- receiving at a waken node a message broadcast periodically in a broadcast message time slot;
- synchronizing the node to a received broadcast message; and
- switching the node to an active state in response to a received broadcast message.

43. (Previously presented) A method for operating a node in a wireless network comprising:

- waking a node in a low power state at regular intervals;
- receiving at a waken node a message broadcast periodically in a broadcast message time slot;
- synchronizing the node to a received broadcast message;
- switching the node to an active state in response to a received broadcast message;

and

- switching the node to the low power state if a message is not received in the active state for a predetermined period of time.

44. (Previously presented) A wireless network comprising:

- a first node for periodically broadcasting a polling message;
- a second node having an active state for receiving messages and a low power state, the second node switching from the active state to the low power state if a message is not received in the active state for a predetermined period of time and the second node in a low power state waking at regular time intervals to receive a broadcast packet to which the second node synchronizes.

45. (Previously presented) A method of operating nodes in a wireless network comprising:

- operating a node in an active state;
- switching the node from the active state to a low power state if a message is not received for a predetermined period of time in the active state;
- periodically broadcasting from another node a polling message;

waking the node in the low power state at timed intervals to receive a broadcast polling message; and

synchronizing the waken node to the received broadcast polling message.

46. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein expiration of the second timed interval is indicated by expiration of a timer set in accordance with a maximum time for which the node is to remain awake waiting for a message addressed to the node.

47. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein if the node receives a message within the second timed interval, the node remains in the active state for at least a third timed interval different from the second timed interval.

48. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein if the node receives a message that is not addressed to the node within the second timed interval, the node remains in the active state for at least a third timed interval different from the second timed interval.

49. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the regular interval is a function of a period at which a particular type of message is broadcast.

50. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the regular interval is equal to a period at which a polling message is broadcast.

51. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the regular interval is a multiple of a period at which a polling message is broadcast.

52. (New) In a node having a transceiver for use in a wireless network, one or more circuits comprising:

a control to operate the node in an active state with the transceiver on and a low power state with the transceiver off, the node in the low power state switching to the active state at regular intervals to receive a broadcast polling message and the node synchronizing to the broadcast polling message.

53. (New) In a node having a transceiver for use in a wireless network, one or more circuits comprising:

a control to operate the node in an active state and a low power state, the node in a low power state waking in response to at least a first timer signal to receive a broadcast packet to which the node synchronizes, the node in an active state entering a low power state in response to at least a second timer signal.

54. (New) In a node having a transceiver for use in a wireless network, one or more circuits comprising:

a control to operate the node in an active state and a low power state, the node in a low power state waking at a timed interval to receive a packet broadcast periodically in a broadcast packet time slot, the node being responsive to the broadcast packet to switch to the active state.